8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MMI

each boat for purchasing boats and gear, and maintenance of the crew. In repayment the exporters take as much fish as they can from the fishermen indebted to them. Despite the frequent disagreements over the value of fish caught, few *nakhoodas* ever get free of debt.

There are no fish factories but salting is carried out by seven Arab exporters, who sell most of the fish to Ceylon. A small fish-meal plant was installed by one merchant in 1951. Sardines, anchovies and shrimps are sun-dried and bagged by these exporters in the winter months. There is one ice factory in Indian hands; some of its production is utilised for fish boxes in the markets. A cold store in British hands has not been successfully used for fish storage owing to difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of fish.

Statistics of fishermen, boats and fishing gear and exports of dried and salted fish are given on page 26.

Marketing

Marketing of fish is done generally through a single auctioneer in each of the markets. Unofficial auctioneers exist who take about 12½ per cent of the selling price. In order to control as large a share as possible of the fish passing through their hands the auctioneer lends money to fishermen against the sole right to auction their fish. Fishermen who are not indebted are free to sell to any stall-holder or rent a stall for themselves but the fact that unofficial auctioneers offer ready cash results in most of the fish passing through an agent's hands.

Fluctuating supply and demand make it impossible to give reliable figures for the average price of fish but observation shows that about 70 per cent of the price paid by the consumer goes to the fishermen, 12 per cent to the auctioneer and 18 per cent to the stallholder.

The amount of fish taken to market is normally insufficient for the needs of the populaton except in the summer months when gluts are common.

Events affecting Production

The production of fish in 1951 was below normal particularly during the summer monsoon. This is attributed to the lack of strong winds and poor upswelling of cold water which normally drives fish to the warmer coastal water. Shoals of sardine were present early in December, 1951, off the Colony and moved slowly eastwards during January and February, 1952. Large yields were obtained and fresh and dried sardines were plentiful in the markets.

The summer monsoon of 1952 was a strong one and the majority of sambuk-owners did very well. The water temperature was 69°F on one occasion and fish normally living in rocks 15 miles out were caught in great numbers inshore. The shrimp and anchovy season was generally bad and few sardines had appeared by the end of 1952.

Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department comprises one Fisheries Officer, one